

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Emma Knight. I am a Yale College student who grew up in New Canaan, CT.

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I am a student and a lifetime Connecticut resident. HUSKY for Immigrants is important to me because I believe everyone in my home state deserves basic resources, without condition or restriction. Immigrant families contribute to our communities every day. They make Connecticut a better, more connected, and more vibrant place to live. The state can and must support all of our neighbors, with or without papers. In particular, kids cannot control the situations they are born into, and they certainly should not be worried about the financial impacts of getting sick. If any of the lawmakers on the committee have children in Connecticut schools, think about your child's peers who might not be able to access basic health care, like insulin or allergy medication, because of bureaucratic technicalities. It's not fair, and the state legislature has a moral obligation to make a change. We are all obligated to make sure Connecticut children, documented or undocumented, are supported and cared for.

Healthcare for all makes our communities safer and happier. This is not just an issue for our undocumented neighbors; we are all affected by inequity in access to healthcare. We want to show the country that Connecticut puts health, safety, and youth wellbeing first. This bill is a way to do that.

State agency infrastructure is already in place to support this legislation, as HUSKY already serves hundreds of thousands of Connecticut residents, including myself. The benefits to our communities vastly exceed the costs to taxpayers. This bill is a chance to tangibly change and even save lives.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Sincerely,
Emma Knight